extraneous overburden material getting mixed with coal during mechanical/bulk mining operation. Inspite of the best efforts made, it is not possible to fully segregate shale, stone etc. from coal in the process of mining and handling. However, in order to ensure despatch of coal free from extraneous material, Coal companies have taken the following steps :

(i) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(ii) Slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking of shale & stone pieces.

(iii) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives.

Exploration strategy of coal in the country

1851. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exploration strategy of coal adopted in the country ;

(b) whether it differs from the larger coal producing countries of the world ;

(c) if so, whether modernised strategy is not being followed in view of heavy investment made in Coal India Limited even after 20 years of nationalisation ; and

(d) if such a strategy has already been adopted, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) In India coal exploration is carried out in two stages. In the first stage Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes regional exploration for locating the potential coal bearing areas. This is followed by detailed exploration carried out by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) directly as well as through Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL), State Governments and private agencies for the purpose of mine planning and exploitation of coal reserves for meeting the demands of different sector of the economy. Inter-se priority of various prospects/blocks taken up for detailed exploration is decided taking into account factors like emerging demand and its location, availability of infrastructure for coal evacuation and techno-economics of the mine development including coal quality.

Each country decides its own strategy depending on the overall indigenous availability of energy resources like coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydel etc. Since coal will continue to remain as a major source of commercial energy in India for coming few decades, modern exploration technologies like surface geophysical survey and down hole multi-parametric geophysical logging, electrical resistivity surveys, megnetic survey etc.. have been inroduced in almost all the coalfields in the country.

Adoption of new technology in the field of coal

1852. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in advanced coal producing countries like China, Australia and others, geological mapping followed by geophysical surveys and a few non-coring bore holes with bore hole logging and only very few coring bore holes to test the strata properties are done ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this technology produces more reliable information at a cheaper cost and faster rate ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wherever required this information is supplemented by underground geophysical surveys ;

(d) if so, whether this method and technology been adopted ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exploration technology mix of surface